

December - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Geographical Indications Registry under the Central Ministry of Commerce has accepted the petition to rename Bihar Makhana as Mithila Makhana.
 - This is done for the welfare of fox nut growers in the Mithila region.
- ❖ India and Vietnam signed a letter of intent for enhanced cooperation in the postal sector.
 - It was signed in line with the comprehensive strategic & economic ties between both countries.

NATIONAL

8th Indian Ocean Dialogue



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

IORA
INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

Indian Council of World Affairs

8th INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE

Post Pandemic Indian Ocean

Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health,
Education, Development and Trade in
IORA Member States

15 December 2021
Venue: Virtual

Participation by Invitation only

- ❖ The eighth Indian Ocean Dialogue was held recently.
- ❖ The dialogue was jointly hosted by the External Affairs Ministry and the Indian Council of World Affairs.

- ❖ The dialogue was hosted under the theme - “Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development, and Trade in Indian Ocean Rim Association Member States”.
- ❖ The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an international organisation comprising of 23 states which share borders with the Indian Ocean.

SANT Missile



- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force, flight tested the indigenously developed and designed Stand-Off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran Range.
- ❖ SANT missiles can neutralize targets in a range up to 10 km.
- ❖ SANT Missile for the armed forces has been designed and developed by the Research Centre Imarat in Hyderabad in coordination with the other labs of DRDO and other industries.

100th year of Public Accounts Committee

- ❖ The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Parliament celebrates the 100th year of its establishment.
- ❖ Public Accounts Committee was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act, 1919 also called Montford Reforms.
- ❖ PAC is one of the parliamentary committees that examine the annual audit reports of CAG which the President lays before the Parliament of India.
- ❖ Those three reports submitted by CAG are,
 - Audit report on appropriation accounts
 - Audit report on finance accounts

- Audit report on public undertakings

INTRODUCTION

- Public Accountability has been regarded as an important pre-requisite for the proper and effective delivery of public service by the Governments.
- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the report of Accounts of the union government submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, to the President.
- The Public Accounts Committee in India ensures Parliamentary control over government expenditure.
- It is also responsible for scrutinizing the accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies.

Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management



- ❖ It is a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid waste.
- ❖ It was by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ India's solid waste management sector has witnessed unparalleled growth in the last few years.
- ❖ The Swachh Bharat Mission Phase 2 is launched to further strengthen the efforts for a clean India.
- ❖ The report, titled “Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management”, documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.

- ❖ The new report is the result of a country-wide study and survey jointly conducted by NITI Aayog and CSE.

Animal exchange Programme

- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh welcomed three new animals as part of its animal exchange programme with National Zoological Park (NZP) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Himalayan goral, the Bengal fox a couple of nilgai deer (Indian antelope) are the new species that have arrived.
- ❖ This animal exchange programme was approved by Central Zoo Authority in April 2021.
- ❖ This exchange is being executed in two phases.
- ❖ IGZP will be getting one more hippopotamus from NZP, New Delhi.

Covovax vaccine for Children



- ❖ The World Health Organisation gave approval for emergency use of Covovax vaccine for Children.
- ❖ WHO listed the Covovax as the ninth COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use.
- ❖ This move is aimed at increasing access to vaccination across lower-income countries.

- ❖ The Serum Institute of India (SII) produces Covovax, under the license from Novavax of USA.
- ❖ The vaccine is administered in two doses, 21 days apart.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Young Geospatial Scientist award

- ❖ Ropesh Goyal from IIT-Kanpur won the Young Geospatial Scientist award.
- ❖ It was awarded in recognition of his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computation software.
- ❖ The Young Geospatial Scientist award and a gold medal have been presented every year since 2011 to promising scientists below 35 years of age.
- ❖ It is awarded in memory of Rachapudi Kamakshi.
- ❖ Rachapudi Kamakshi is a strategic analyst with a strong inclination towards geography and geospatial studies.



International Maritime Organization Award

- ❖ The International Maritime Organization council has awarded Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss.
- ❖ The award has been given for exceptional and courageous efforts towards the rescue operation of M/T New Diamond.
- ❖ The rescue team members of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and the master and crew of tugboat Ocean Bliss carried out sustained and effective fire-fighting operations.

- ❖ They skilfully towed the vessel away from the coast, thereby preventing loss of life at sea and averting a serious marine pollution incident.



SPORTS

Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships



SAI **75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

TEAM INDIA - MEN

55kg	Sanket Sargar	96kg	Vikas Thakur
61kg	Guru Raja	96kg	Jagdish Vishwakarma
67kg	Jeremy Lalrinnunga	109kg	Lovepreet Singh
73kg	Achinta Sheuli	+109kg	Gurdeep Singh
81kg	Ajay Singh		

- ❖ Ajay Singh clinched India's third gold of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships held at Tashkent of Uzbekistan by winning the men's 81kg category.
- ❖ Ajay Singh lifted a total of 322kg and also set a national record in snatch (147kg).
- ❖ He became the third Indian weightlifter to directly qualify for next year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

- ❖ Jeremy Lalrinnunga (67kg) and Achinta Sheuli (73kg) have already qualified for the 2022 CWG after winning gold in their respective competitions.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Migrants Day - December 18

- ❖ The day is marked by the United Nations, through the UN-related agency International Organization for Migration.
- ❖ The day is observed to highlight the contributions made by the 272 million migrants.
- ❖ It includes more than 41 million people who are internally displaced persons, and the challenges they face.
- ❖ The theme of International Migrants Day 2021 is Harnessing the potential of human mobility.



National Minorities Rights Day - December 18





- ❖ It is observed to uphold the right to freedom and equal opportunities for the ethnic minorities in India and create awareness about the respect and dignity of the minorities.
- ❖ 18th December was declared as the Minorities Rights Day back in 1992 by the United Nations.
- ❖ In India, it is the responsibility of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).
- ❖ The NCM in India was established by the Union Government under the National Commission for Minorities Act, in 1992.

World Arabic Language Day - December 18

- ❖ The Arabic language is one of the pillars of the cultural diversity of mankind.
- ❖ It is one of the most widely used languages in the world.
- ❖ The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of the history, culture, and development of the language by preparing a program of special activities and events.
- ❖ The theme of this year's World Arabic Language Day is "The Arabic Language and Civilizational Communication".

